

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TW

SUBJECT: DISPUTE OVER SHIP SALE

1. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED BY ANTHONY COULOUOUNDIS, MANAGER OF SEA VENTURES CORP., NYC, WHICH RECENTLY DELIVERED TANKER NAFTAMONDIAL, UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN COSPAS SALONIPIS, TO KAOHSIUNG SHIPWRECKER, KEUN HWA IRON AND STEEL WORKS ENTERPRISES LTD FOR SCRAPPING. KEUN HWA ACCEPTED VESSEL AND PAID SALE PRICE TO SEA VENTURES. HOWEVER, CAPTAIN SALONIPIS, A GREEK NATIONAL BUT US PERMANENT RESIDENT, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PULLED OFF AIRCRAFT AS HE ABOUT TO LEAVE TAIWAN, ARRESTED, AND INFORMED HE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH FRAUD. FRAUD CHARGE WOULD BE ON GROUNDS SALONIPIS FRAUDULENTLY SIGNED LETTER STATING VESSEL WAS READY FOR TRANSFER; KEUN HWA IS DEMANDING 150,000 DOLS. REBATE ON ALREADY PAID PRICE FOR VESSEL IN RETURN FOR DROPPING CHARGES. (NAFTAMONDIAL IS LIBERIAN FLAG VESSEL).

2. AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH SEA VENTURES, SALONIPIS

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RELEASED BY KAOHSIUNG POLICE AND PERMITTED MOVE INTO

KINGDOM HOTEL, ROOM 2518. SALONIPIS SUBSEQUENTLY RECALLED TO KAOHSIUNG POLICE STATION AND FORCED UNDER DURESS (REPORTEDLY A THREAT TO LOCK HIM UP AND THROW THE KEY AWAY) TO SIGN STATEMENT ADMITTING ORIGINAL LETTER ON SHIP TRANSFER WAS FRAUDULENT. HE IS NOW BACK AT KINGDOM HOTEL BUT WILL AGAIN BE TAKEN TO POLICE STATION AT 0900

JUNE 20 TO BE FORMALLY CHARGED WITH FRAUD.

3. SEA VENTURES IS NOW SEEKING TO RETAIN LOCAL LAWYER, FOR CAPTAIN SALONIPIS. FIRM HAS REQUESTED USG INTERVENTION WITH ROC TO OBTAIN DEFERRAL OF PREFERMENT OF CHARGES UNTIL AFTER LAWYER HIRED AND ARRIVES KAOHSIUNG. WHILE USG DOES NOT NORMALLY INTERVENE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON BEHALF OF PERMANENT RESIDENTS, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS, IN ABSENCE OF GREEK REPRESENTATION ON TAIWAN, THAT EMBASSY INTERVENE WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AS REQUESTED BY SEA VENTURES. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO CONTACT SEA VENTURES'S LOCAL AGENT, TAIWAN TRADING CORP. KISSINGER

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